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Rec'd: January 26, 1954 6:49 p.m.

FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 247, January 26, 3 p.m.

PRIORITY

Guatemalan police yesterday continued arrests of anti-government elements including leaders of Union de Trabajadores Libres (UNTL), anti-Communist labor organization, and two directors of anti-Communist radio broadcasts.

UNTL leaders arrested were Ruben Villatoro, President, Enrique Coronado, Secretary, Ramiro Aguilar, Treasurer and Miguel Quiroa (Embassy despatch 364, January 4). Charges against them have not been made public.

Radio broadcasters picked up were Horacio de Cordova, director of LA HORA anti-Communist program, and Roberto Vizcaino Rubio of Radio Continental. As in previous arrest of Roberto Castillo Sinibaldi, director of Radio Ciros, no reasons have been given. Yesterday ten radio program directors delivered protest against Castillo's arrest to President Arbenz office. Press states police are also looking for Arturo Espinoza Hernandez, director of Crisol Politico program.

Press further reports police are continuing search for Luis Beltranena Valladares, prominent figure in Partido Unificacion Anti-Comunista who is rumored to have taken refuge in Mexican Embassy, and have started looking for Ramiro Castellanos Hernandez, anti-Communist candidate for Guatemala City municipal council last November. Beltranena's wife has stated privately that he is in "safe" place.

Speculation continues as to what connection if any exists between anti-Communist labor, radio and political figures and Major Oliva whose arrest is generally accepted to be in connection with plot to overthrow Arbenz administration.

AB:JM/14

NOTE: Mr. Fisher (MID) notified 8:40 p.m., 1/26/CWO/JRL

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